

BEFORE THE BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL EXAMINERS
OF THE STATE OF IOWA

RECEIVED
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL EXAMINERS

AUG 16 2017

In the matter of:) BOEE Case No. 17-17
) Folder # 1012586
Aaron Jones,)
)
Respondent.) **COMBINED STATEMENT OF**
) **CHARGES, SETTLEMENT**
) **AGREEMENT, AND FINAL ORDER**

In accordance with the provisions of Iowa Code sections 17A.12(5) and 272.2(4) and 282 IAC 11.4(6), and with full knowledge of the right to demand a formal hearing before the Board upon the pending complaint prior to the imposition of sanction upon his license, the Respondent expressly waives the right to a disciplinary hearing and notifies the Board of his desire to resolve the pending complaint through means of informal disposition.

The Respondent concedes the jurisdiction of the Board for all issues relevant hereto and voluntarily consents to the State's counsel presenting this agreement to the Board with the terms provided. If the Board does not accept the terms of this agreement, the disciplinary hearing will be rescheduled and the stipulations contained herein are not binding upon the Respondent and will not be presented against him at the time of hearing without further agreement of the Respondent.

Board approval of this settlement shall constitute resolution of this matter and will be entered as a FINAL ORDER of the Board.

NOTICE OF HEARING

A hearing in this matter will not be held, as the State and Respondent have entered into the following consent agreement in lieu of scheduling a contested case hearing. If the Board does not accept this Combined Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement, and Final Order, the matter may be set for hearing in accordance with 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 11.7.

STIPULATIONS

1. Respondent holds a coaching authorization (FOLDER # 1012586). Respondent's license is current and will next expire on September 25, 2018.
2. During the relevant facts of this matter, Respondent was employed with the Norwalk Community School District.
3. On January 30, 2017, the Board of Educational Examiners received a complaint against Respondent alleging a violation of the Code of Ethics.

4. On June 16, 2017, the Board found probable cause to proceed to hearing based upon the facts set forth in paragraph 6 below.

5. The Board charged Respondent with violation of Board rule 282 Iowa Administrative Code 25.3(1)(e)(4), which prohibits soliciting or encouraging a romantic or otherwise inappropriate relationship with a student.

6. Investigation revealed that Respondent had an inappropriate texting conversation with a student.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

7. This Combined Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement, and Final Order constitutes the final resolution of a contested case proceeding and shall have the force and effect of a disciplinary order entered following a contested case hearing.

8. In order to resolve this matter without proceeding to hearing, Respondent agrees to the following conditions:

- a. Respondent accepts a WRITTEN REPRIMAND.
- b. Respondent agrees that his license will be suspended for SIX MONTHS, from January 1, 2018, to June 30, 2018.
- c. Respondent agrees to undergo a mental health evaluation that includes an assessment of his ability to establish and maintain appropriate teacher-student boundaries. The evaluation shall be performed by a licensed professional selected by Respondent, with prior approval of the Board's Executive Director. Respondent shall provide the professional a copy of this Combined Settlement Agreement and Final Order prior to the mental health evaluation. Respondent shall ensure that the Board receives a copy of the evaluation report from the approved professional within thirty (30) days of the completion of the mental health evaluation. Respondent shall comply with any recommendations for treatment and/or training resulting from the evaluation and must successfully complete any recommended boundaries counseling. Respondent is responsible for all costs of the evaluation and any treatment and training. Respondent is not eligible for reinstatement until the Board determines he has successfully completed this requirement.
- d. Respondent agrees to successfully complete at least fifteen in-person contact hours in "Ethics for Educators." This course is offered by the ISEA. Respondent is responsible for all costs associated with the completion of the educational course. Respondent shall provide the Board with proof of completion of the Ethics for Educators course within one (1) year of the Board's acceptance of this Combined Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement, and Final Order.

LICENSEE DECLARATION

I understand that this Combined Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement, and Final Order is subject to the approval of the Board and will have no force or effect if it is not accepted by the Board.

I understand State's counsel will present this Combined Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement, and Final Order to the Board *ex parte*.

I agree to comply with the requirements set forth in the stipulations and requirements of this Combined Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement, and Final Order and understand that my failure to do so can result in additional discipline of my coaching authorization.

I understand that this Combined Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement, and Final Order is a public record, which will become part of my permanent licensure file and will be available for public inspection and reproduction.

I understand that my name will be added to the national clearinghouse database kept by the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC).

8-16-2017
Date

Aaron Jones
Aaron Jones, Respondent

ORDER

IT IS THE FINAL ORDER OF THE IOWA BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL EXAMINERS THAT:

1. The conduct with which Respondent has been charged constitutes a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics governing the teaching profession. Respondent is REPRIMANDED for the charged conduct.

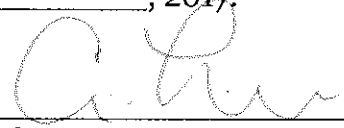
2. Additionally, Respondent's coaching authorization is SUSPENDED for a minimum period of SIX MONTHS, to be served from January 1, 2018 to June 30, 2018. Respondent bears the burden of applying for reinstatement pursuant to 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 11.34 and the burden of proving that the basis for his suspension no longer exists and that it will be in the public interest to reinstate his license. Additionally, Respondent is not eligible for reinstatement until he satisfactorily completes the requirements of paragraph 4 below.

3. Respondent shall successfully complete at least fifteen in-person contact hours in "Ethics for Educators." Respondent is responsible for all costs associated with the completion of the educational course. Respondent shall provide the Board with proof of completion of the Ethics for Educators course within one (1) year of the date of this Order.

4. Respondent shall undergo a mental health evaluation that includes an assessment of his ability to establish and maintain appropriate teacher-student boundaries. The evaluation shall be performed by a licensed professional selected by Respondent, with prior approval of the Board's Executive Director. Respondent shall provide the professional a copy of this Combined Settlement Agreement and Final Order prior to the mental health evaluation. Respondent shall ensure that the Board receives a copy of the evaluation report from the approved professional within thirty (30) days of the completion of the mental health evaluation. Respondent shall comply with any recommendations for treatment and/or training resulting from the evaluation and must successfully complete any recommended boundaries counseling. Respondent is responsible for all costs of the evaluation and any treatment and training. Respondent is not eligible for reinstatement until the Board determines he has successfully completed this requirement.

5. In determining the appropriate sanction to impose in this case, the Board has considered the nature and seriousness of the allegations as well as mitigating circumstances.

Dated this 6th day of October, 2017.



Dr. Ann Lebo, Executive Director
Iowa Board of Educational Examiners

Copies to:

Aaron Jones
RESPONDENT

Jordan Esbrook
ATTORNEY FOR THE STATE